

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 04133 281802Z
ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 HEW-04 OES-09 EB-08
FDRE-00 IO-13 INRE-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
MED-05 SSO-00 PA-01 ICAE-00 HA-05 NSAE-00 CA-01
COME-00 /072 W

-----129566 281814Z /46

O 281733Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5482

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DEPT PASS USDA IMMEDIATE

EO 11652 NA
TAGS: EAGR, DR
SUB : OUTBREAK OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

REF: (A) SANTO DOMINGO 4114, (B) FASTO 54, AGATT FROM MULHERN

(C) TOFAS 66
(D) SANTO DOMINGO 3815,
(E) SANTO DOMINGO 3712

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

1. THE OUTBREAK OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN THE DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC HAS CREATED A PROBLEM OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS WHICH
THE DOMINICANS MAY VERY WELL NOT REPEAT NOT BE ABLE TO
OVERCOME WITHOUT THE CONTINUED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OF USDA
SCIENTISTS MENTIONED IN REF B. THE GODR AND THE EMBASSY
GREATLY APPRECIATE THE PROMPT AND POSITIVE USG RESPONSE TO
THE GODR'S REQUEST FOR USDA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE
FORM OF A TEAM OF VETERINARIANS WITH EXPERTISE IN COMBATTING
AND ERADICATION OF THE DISEASE. THE TEAM WHICH ARRIVED JULY 13
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HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN IDENTIFYING THE EXTENT OF
SPREAD OF THE DISEASE, TRAINING THE DOMINICAN VETERINARY
AUTHORITIES, FIELD PERSONNEL AND LABORATORY TECHNICIANS IN
THE PROPER TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF COMBATTING THE OUTBREAK
AND HAS IMPROVED THE CAPABILITY OF THE CENTRAL LABORATORY AT SAN
CRISTOBAL TO THE POINT WHERE THE DISEASE CAN NOW BE DIAGNOSED
LOCALLY. CONTINUED FOLLOW UP OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

FOR AN ADDITIONAL SIX WEEK PERIOD IS IMPORTANT
TO ENHANCE THE PROBABILITY OF FINAL SUCCESS IN CONTROL AND
ERADICATION OF THE DISEASE. ABRUPT WITHDRAWAL OF
OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (REF B) WOULD NOT ONLY
JEOPARDIZE SUCCESS OF MISSION BUT ALSO THE IMAGE OF U.S. HELP-
FULNESS TO THE GODR IN DEALING WITH THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM.

2. THE PRESENCE OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN THE D.R. POSES
A VERY SERIOUS THREAT TO THE MULTIBILLION DOLLAR U.S. MAINLAND
SWINE INDUSTRY AND TO PUERTO RICO. SEVERAL DAILY COMMERCIAL
AIRLINE FLIGHTS BETWEEN SANTO DOMINGO AND NEW YORK, MIAMI
AND SAN JUAN CARRY PEOPLE WHO COULD UNKNOWINGLY INTRODUCE THE
VIRUS INTO THE U.S. THROUGH UNCOOKED PORK PRODUCTS FROM
INFECTED ANIMALS CARRIED IN THEIR LUGGAGE. ALSO, SMALL BOATS
PLY THE WATERS BETWEEN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND PUERTO RICO AND
OTHER POINTS WHILE SMALL PRIVATE AIRCRAFT GO IN AND OUT OF THE D.R.
FREQUENTLY. INCREASED SURVEILLANCE AT U.S. PORTS OF ENTRY AND
AT AIRPORTS CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT SOME MATERIALS CARRYING THE
VIRUS WILL NOT ENTER UNITED STATES.

3. AS POINTED OUT IN REF A, FUNDS AVAILABLE TO AID/PASA IN
THE CURRENT BUDGET ARE INSUFFICIENT TO FUND THE COSTS OF THE
ADDITIONAL SCIENTISTS REQUESTED. GIVEN THE URGENT DOMINICAN
NEED FOR CONTINUED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN COMBATTING
THE DISEASE AND THE POTENTIAL THREAT TO THE U.S. SWINE INDUSTRY
BY CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE DISEASE SO NEAR TO THE U.S.,
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I HOPE THAT OTHER MEANS WILL BE FOUND TO FUND THE
REQUESTED ACTIVITIES.

4. I URGE THAT NECESSARY ACTION BE TAKEN ASAP
IN ORDER THAT OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO
THE DOMINICANS MAY CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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